

Appl. No. 10/621,133  
Amdt. Dated: March 4, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer which contains 0.1-30% by mole of unreacted butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester on the basis of carboxyl groups copolymerized in the acrylic elastomer, which method comprises:

determining an amount of butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester ~~that will be~~ copolymerized in a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer; and

adjusting the amount of unreacted butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester in the acrylic elastomer to 0.1 - 30 % by mole on the basis of carboxyl groups copolymerized in the acrylic elastomer to improve compression set characteristics of cross-linking product of the acrylic elastomer.

Claim 2 (Previously presented): A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer according to Claim 1, wherein the butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester is a monoalkyl maleate.

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**Claims 3-5 (Canceled)**

**Claim 6 (previously presented):** A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer according to Claim 1, wherein the acrylic elastomer is a copolymer of at least one of alkyl acrylate and alkoxyalkyl acrylate with a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester.

**Claim 7 (Previously presented):** A method of producing a butenedioic acid monoalkyl ester-copolymerized acrylic elastomer according to Claim 6, wherein the acrylic elastomer is further copolymerized with a vinyl monomer.